MONKEE BUSINESS
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For all last minute Monkees news and information that comes up between issues, please stay in touch with MBF's update system, three ways of keeping you informed on new developments.

(1) Call our hotline (609-888-4567) regularly. The hotline message is dated at the beginning so you can tell if it's a new message or something you've already heard.

(2) If you're online, check the autoresponder regularly (send an e-mail to "monkeenews@flexquarters.com"). Or make a habit of checking the Monkees website (http://www.flexquarters.com/monkees.htm or www.monkees.net.)

(3) Or send a long self-addressed stamped envelope (or, for your convenience, a pile of long SASEs) for our written update series.

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(cover photo courtesy of Edmag Archives)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Micky Dolenz (March 8, 1945), Coco Dolenz Heinzelman (April 5), and Samantha Juste (May 31).

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Monkee Mailbox

Davy Jones, P.O. Box 400, Beavertown, PA 17813
Peter Tork, 524 San Anselmo Ave. #102, San Anselmo, CA 94960
Michael Nesmith, Videoranch, Rt. 1, Box 133, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Micky Dolenz, Agency for the Performing Arts, 9000 Sunset Blvd., LA, CA 90069

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ARE YOU MOVING? If you are, please make sure you send us your new address as soon as you know it, along with the date it becomes effective. Please give us a few weeks' advance notice. We are looking for a new address for Missing Monkees Fan Chrishenda Ellis.

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MONKEE BUSINESS FANZINE (ISSN 1078-4268) is published in March, June, September, and December. Ads are 40¢ per word to members, 75¢ per word to non-members, accepted on a first-come, first-served space-available basis. Display ad rates are also available upon request. Payment must accompany ad--no exceptions! Deadline for all news, articles, ads, etc. for the June 1998 issue is May 1, 1998. MBF is registered with the National Association of Fan Clubs. All contents copyright 1998 and may not be reproduced without prior written permission. Subscriptions: U.S., $12 per year, first class mail; Canada $13 per year, airmail; all overseas subscriptions are $17 per year, airmail. Make all checks or money orders (U.S. funds only, cash at your own risk) payable to Maggie McManus, 2770 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 U.S.A. (Bounced checks will be subject to a $15 penalty charge.) Special notices of major Monkees happenings in your area are sent to you between issues. Got news or info for MBF? Save a stamp and contact us by e-mail at "monkeebiz@prodigy.com", or fax us at 609-888-4567 (if no faxtone press *51).

News & Bits

The Monkees' 30th Anniversary reunion tour is now officially over.

On January 22, Monkees manager Ward Sylvester announced that all scheduled dates, including a couple weeks in Australia and New Zealand and a lone U.S. booking, had been cancelled, with no further concerts planned.

Monkees 1998 Tour Schedule

CANCELLED	Feb. 27-28, Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
CANCELLED	March 5-6-7-8, Crown Casino, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA
CANCELLED	March 10-11, Southport RSL, Southport, AUSTRALIA
CANCELLED	March 13, Fairfield RSL, Sydney, AUSTRALIA
CANCELLED	March 14, Rooty Hill RSL, Sydney, AUSTRALIA
CANCELLED	March 15, Newcastle Civic Theatre, Newcastle, AUSTRALIA
CANCELLED	March 16, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
CANCELLED	March 17-18, Metropolis Concert Club, Perth, AUSTRALIA

The New Zealand date had been the first to fall through, about a week prior to the mass cancellation. "The New Zealand date was withdrawn by the promoters," Ward emphasized in response to New Zealand fans' reaction that the Monkees had "deserted" them. The New Zealand promoters got cold feet over the fact that the New Zealand dollar was trading very low on the international currency market, making it much more of a financial risk for them to bring the Monkees to NZ than they'd originally expected.

Promoters in Japan and Malaysia had expressed interest in bringing the Monkees to those countries, but plans never materialized. Ward explained, "The Far East tour never reached critical mass. Most of the Australian dates were proposed for workingmen's clubs of only 750 seats with liquor licenses that prevented youngsters and families [from attending]. At the end of the day it wasn't worth flying halfway around the world to play lounges. Given that there were no other dates scheduled except for Michigan, it wasn't practical to keep the touring unit together to do one concert in two months. The guys decided to take a year or two off from touring together and pursue their individual interests."

Peter Tork told MBF, "[Taking the concert tour to] Japan didn't happen because the economy there is so bad. They couldn't make us an offer that was worth our while. Australia was borderline worthwhile."

Micky Dolenz revealed, "The truth is that David just decided that he didn't want to tour anymore. But we all had our reservations about doing the Australian tour."

Davy Jones was quoted in the January 31 issue of Billboard about the recent turn of events. The Monkees "are over for now," Davy said. "I can't see anything happening until the year 2000." Davy also laid down the law for his bandmates regarding future Monkees reunion tours: "It will never be just three of us. It will be the four of us [including Michael Nesmith] or nothing," he told Billboard.

Davy: "It will be the four of us or nothing."

Since the tour cancellation news broke, Monkees fans have bombarded MBF with concerns about the future of the proposed Monkees movie. Micky told MBF, "The movie is still alive and well, as far as I know." Peter concurred, "It's in the hands of the producers. They have assured us it's still in the works, and Ward says their assurances are credible. But basically nothing can happen until the contracts are signed, and the contracts [for all parties involved] will be signed all at the same time, because the contracts all depend on each other. Nothing happens until then," Peter explained further. "I'm sure Michael has ideas for the script, but you can't expect him to put his other projects aside to work on the script until he has a contract to write the script. Nobody works on spec."

The end of the 30th Anniversary tour had been inevitable anyway. In the December issue of MBF it was announced that the Monkees expected to take 1998 off and tour together again in 1999. Micky had explained that the Monkees had "saturated the market" in their last two years on the road. Most venues which were likely to book the Monkees had already done so, and the only remaining bookings available to the guys were at increasingly smaller venues.

MONKEES 1997 CONCERT TOUR: ATTENDANCE

Date	Venue	Capacity	Attendance
11/28	Mt. Airy Lodge, Mt. Pocono, PA	1500	1452
11/29	Concord, Kiamesha Lake, NY	2500-2600	2500-plus
11/30	Palace Theatre, New Haven, CT	1997	828
12/22	Boise State University Pavilion, Boise, ID	5000	1918

Monkees fans still hoped for one last chance to see the guys in concert at scattered late winter dates in the U.S. and on the Far East tour, but it was not to be. Even the guys' highly anticipated New Year's Eve show didn't work out quite the way fans had hoped.

On December 3, Monkees manager Ward Sylvester announced that the Monkees were booked to play two shows New Year's Eve at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, at the Disney Wide World of Sports complex, on alternating stages with Joan Jett and the Doobie Brothers. Ward told MBF that he had been given to understand, albeit through intermediaries, that the audience would be able to move freely among the three stages and that the Monkees' two 45-minute sets would alternate with the other bands. Unfortunately, when fans tried to purchase tickets for the event, they were told that the Doobie Brothers were playing at Disney MGM Studios and Joan Jett was performing at Pleasure Island and the Monkees were not scheduled at all.

Finally someone at the Wide World of Sports complex told MBF that the Monkees were booked to play a closed New Year's Eve party for guests of Disney resorts and Good Neighbor hotels, a party designed to handle the overflow for the thousands of people who wanted to celebrate the New Year with Disney but for whom there was no room in the theme parks. The previous year the Disney folks had been forced to turn away 20,000 people because the theme parks were full, so this year they instituted a "Guest Recovery Program", a series of auxiliary parties to which they could send the overflow crowds. The Monkees' show at the sports complex was one of these auxiliary parties. Because the Disney folks already knew they would have a full house, they chose not to advertise the show or sell tickets to it. We asked if Monkees fans who stayed at a Disney resort or Good Neighbor hotel would be able to attend the Monkees' show, and we were told that there were no guarantees---since the program was so new, no one really knew how it would be decided which guests would be sent to which party---and we were told that Monkees fans who were not Disney guests would be turned away from the show.

The whole situation was quite disheartening to fans---not the best way to start the New Year nor, as it turned out, the best way to end the 30th Anniversary tour. Although no one knew it at the time, New Year's Eve at Disney World was the final concert of the Monkees' reunion tour.

DAVY JONES

Once it was decided that the Monkees would be taking a year's hiatus from touring, Davy Jones wasted no time lining up a summer touring project for himself for the summer of 1998. Davy told MBF in late November that he would be joining Peter Noone and Bobby Sherman on the road for the Teen Idols Tour. (See page 23 for further info.) Meanwhile, Davy has a couple solo shows and a personal appearance on his schedule for the spring, prior to the start of the Teen Idols Tour.

Davy Jones Solo Shows

Date	Venue
Apr. 23-25	Alton Belle Casino, Alton, IL, 800-336-7568
May 2	personal appearance, 3rd Annual News & Record Women's Show, Greensboro Coliseum Complex, Greensboro, NC, 336-373-7474 or 336-373-7400
May 8-10	Epcot Center, Lake Buena Vista, FL, 407-824-2222, ask for Epcot information center

More dates may be added; check MBF's update system (see page 2) for the latest info in the weeks and months ahead.
For the list of tour dates for Davy Jones with the Teen Idols Tour, see page 24 and stay tuned to MBF's update system.

Sorethumb's Freddy Monday, trying on Davy's yellow suit jacket, with Davy (photo by Sorethumb)

Cable music network VH-1 is producing a "Teen Idols" television special to help launch the Teen Idols summer tour. One of the show's producers tells MBF that Davy has already been interviewed for the special. A segment on the Monkees and their 1960s popularity is in the works. Also included will be the story of Davy's appearance in Sorethumb's "I Want To Be Your Davy Jones" music video, featuring interviews with members of the Long Island band. The Teen Idols special will air on VH-1 probably in March or April; no definite air date was available at press time. Watch your local listings.

Sorethumb's "I Want To Be Your Davy Jones" music video is still available on videocassette for a limited time for $10 plus $2 shipping from Endo Music, P.O. Box 83-D, Lindenhurst, New York 11757-0083. Make check or money order payable to Endo Music.

Davy and Freddy Monday on the set of "I Want To Be Your Davy Jones" (photo by Sorethumb)

On December 8, Davy appeared as a guest presenter at the Billboard Music Awards, broadcast live from the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Each commercial break in the live telecast was preceded by a rock'n'roll trivia question. One question was, "Which Monkee appeared on 'The Brady Bunch' in 1971?", and, when the broadcast resumed, a brief clip of Davy and "Marcia" from "The Brady Bunch" was shown---before Davy and Maureen McCormick ("Marcia") came out to present the award for Country Artist of the Year (LeAnn Rimes). Before getting down to the business of handing out the award, Maureen told Davy he was in great shape, and Davy said he had to

Davy and Maureen McCormick at the Billboard Music Awards

be, because he would be going on tour in the summer of 1998 with Peter Noone and Bobby Sherman. Davy displayed a promotional ad for the Teen Idols Tour. Maureen chided, "What a shameless plug!", and Davy retorted, "Well, as I always say, a shameless plug is better than no plug at all!"

According to the Las Vegas Sun (Dec. 9), when Davy and Maureen met the press backstage, a reporter called out to Maureen, "You look like you haven't aged one bit!" "Who are you talking to?" Maureen quipped. She credited "good genes", and Davy added, "Tight jeans are good, too."

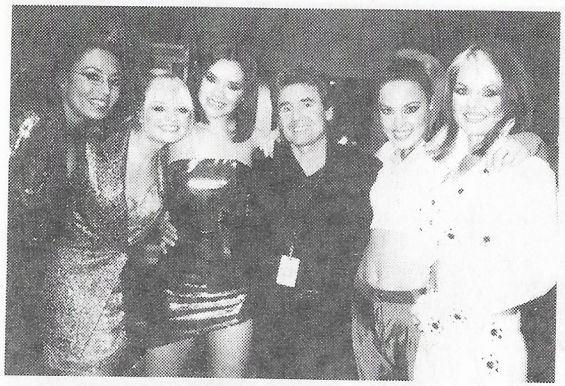
Photos of Davy and Maureen appeared in The Globe (Jan. 6), The Star (Dec. 23), and Billboard (Dec. 27). A photo of Davy and Garth Brooks at the Billboard Music Awards appeared in industry magazine "Performance" (Jan. 16). Also from the same event, a photo of LeAnn Rimes and Davy appeared in "Amusement Business" (Jan. 5), and a photo of Davy and The Spice Girls appeared in "Pollstar" (Jan. 12).

Davy's very public plug of the Teen Idols Tour earned it some additional publicity in Billboard (Jan. 31). The tour was also mentioned in The Hollywood Reporter (Dec. 9).

On the December 15 edition of syndicated infotainment show "Hard Copy", celebrities attending the Billboard Music Awards were asked about their craziest Christmas gift experiences. Davy said the craziest Christmas gift he ever got was divorce papers from Anita--"and the most expensive!" he said.

In December, Davy Jones' company Hercules Promotions re-released his 1991 Christmas album. Previously the album had been available only on cassette, but at last it was issued on compact disc. Thanks to publicity on the Internet, Hercules had a rush of orders and ran out of CDs before Jan. 1! At press time, Hercules was in the process of restocking the item. Hercules is also taking advance orders for Davy's book, They Made A Monkee Out Of Me... Again. For a catalog or further info, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Hercules Promotions, P.O. Box 9539, Metairie, LA 70055.

Davy's revised autobiography, They Made A Monkee Out Of Me...Again, is expected to be published sometime in 1998, hopefully in time for the Teen



Davy and the Spice Girls at the Billboard Music Awards (from "Pollstar", Jan. 12)

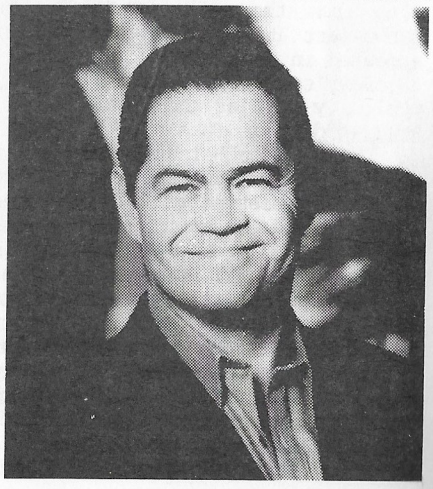
Idols Tour. Davy's publicist will be setting up a series of booksignings once the book is published. Of course, Davy had hoped the book would be ready long before this, but the hectic pace of Monkees events in the last two years kept him from finding the time to sit down and focus on it for long stretches. From time to time, he would finish writing a section or send for a few boxes of photos from his Beavertown home so that he could select pictures for the book, and bit by bit progress was made. As of December, he was reported to be "working diligently on the cover design," according to Hercules Promotions. At press time, Davy was waiting to receive photos of himself and Maureen McCormick from the Billboard Music Awards so that he could include those in the book, and he was actively working on the final chapter of the book so that it could go to press as soon as possible.

Davy spent most of January at home in England, training to ride in a horse race on Feb. 3 in Lingfield, England, at the same racecourse where he won his first race as a jockey in February 1996. Davy was even riding the same horse, Digpast, owned by his daughter Sarah. This time Davy and Digpast finished at the back of the pack, as Digpast got a late start out of the starting gate. Two weeks earlier, Digpast had raced with a different jockey and finished second. Davy and Digpast raced again without success in a celebrity charity race at Lingfield on February 12.

Davy's daughters Jessica and Annabel spent some vacation time with Davy in Florida in December while Davy was there to play the Monkees' New Year's Eve show at Disney World.

MICKY DOLENZ

Micky told MBF that he will absolutely be up for another Monkees reunion next year or the year after or whenever, but for this year he plans to concentrate on his solo career as a director. In fact, as soon as Micky knew the Monkees would be on hiatus in 1998, he made it a priority to focus on getting his directing career in gear, and he hopes to find himself behind the camera as early as March or April. Micky has been asked to direct a new movie for the same company which wanted him to direct "Boys Will Be Boys" back in the fall of 1996.



Micky also spent most of January in England. He was there to visit his daughters Charlotte, Emily, and Georgia---in fact, he flew to England immediately after the Monkees' Boise concert to spend Christmas with the girls, then flew to Disney World for the Monkees' New Year's Eve show before returning to England once more---but he also took the opportunity to renew some of his old contacts in the TV business in England, pursuing directing possibilities there.

Micky will serve on the nominating committee for the Directors Guild Awards, in the category of children's programming.

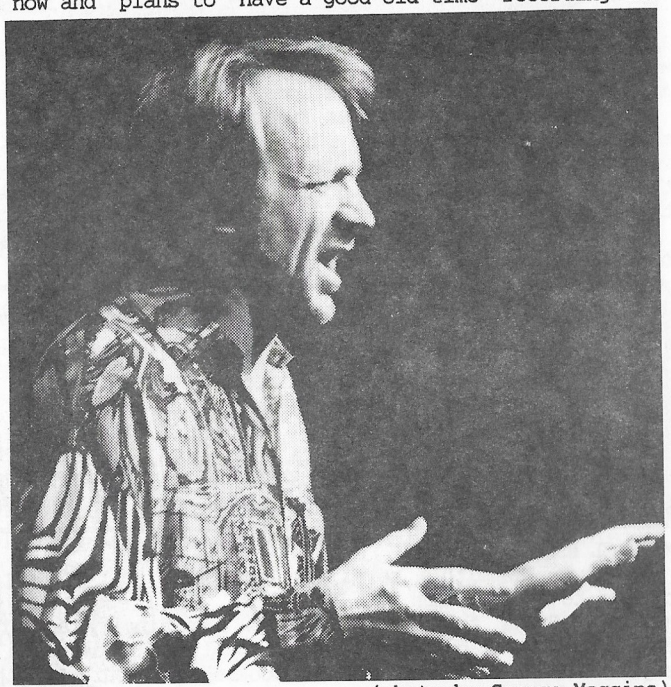
On December 19, Micky was a panel guest on ABC's late-night show "Politically Incorrect".

Ami Dolenz's episode of "Teen Angel", in which she played a fashion doll brought to life, aired December 19.

PETER TORK

While the Monkees take a hiatus from touring, Peter Tork will use his free time this year to record a new solo album. Peter told MBF he has spent the last two months installing a new recording studio in his home---it's all linked to his new computer, so that he can record digitally, direct to the hard drive. With the new facilities, Peter will be able to complete all production in-house, mixing everything himself by computer.

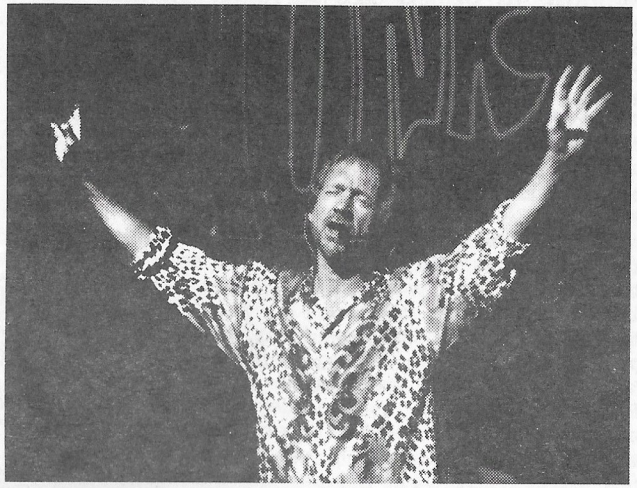
The album will be similar to 1994's "Stranger Things Have Happened", Peter says, and he is considering titling this second album after another song by the writer of "Stranger Things Have Happened". Peter is writing new songs for the project now and plans to "have a good old time" recording the new album. "I plan to have as many guests as I can on the album," he says. There's no timetable for the project---"it will be done, at the earliest, by fall," Peter estimates. And, of course, fans can look forward to a concert tour in support of the album at some point.



(photo by George Massina)

Fans in the Los Angeles area can expect to see Peter playing often with the Shoe Suede Blues Band this year. The first of their 1998 shows, Jan. 16 at the 400-seat Norris Theater in Rolling Hills Estates, CA, was a benefit concert for the Willie Dixon Blues Heaven Foundation. Shoe Suede Blues shared the bill with blues legend Jimmy "Preacher" Ellis, and the show was taped for future broadcast by the Cox cable network. The Cox television producer told MBF that the show was "excellent": "One of the hits of the night was 'Even White Boys Get The Blues' and [also], without a doubt the closing number, which had Peter joining Jimmy Ellis for a smokin' version of 'I Got My Mojo Workin''. Peter was a pleasure to work with---absolutely no 'star' attitude whatsoever, extremely gracious in every way. The sound was excellent and the colors on

stage were fantastic, simple reds and blues, but everything was great." After the video is edited and the music is re-mixed, the concert will be broadcast exclusively on Cox Communications, which provides cable TV service to about 3.5 million homes across the U.S., in markets like San Diego, Oklahoma City, New Orleans, Cedar Rapids, Washington D.C., and many others. The producer of the special has promised us a complete list of viewing markets and broadcast dates, and we will pass that information on to you via MBF's update system when available.



(photo by Randi Patterson)

Peter's Shoe Suede Blues musical partner Tadg Galleran tells MBF, "The show was great, although the house was about two-thirds full." The audience consisted mainly of those who had heard about the show through MBF or via the Internet and the families of the artists. Tadg adds, "We got some great tape and video, which we will use to book more gigs in the future."

Peter confirms that Shoe Suede Blues is definitely looking for more bookings---"we'll go anywhere for a fee," he quipped.

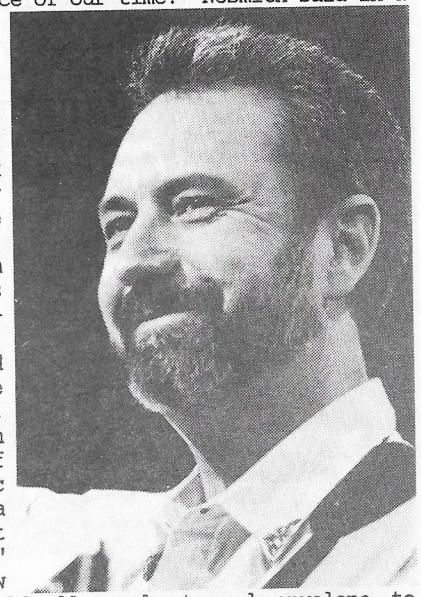
Concert Schedule for Peter Tork with the Shoe Suede Blues Band

Date	Venue
Jan. 16	Norris Theater, Rolling Hills Estates, CA
Feb. 3	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA
Feb. 10	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA
Apr. 7	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA, 310-395-1676
Apr. 14	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA, 310-395-1676
Apr. 21	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA, 310-395-1676
Apr. 28	Harvelles, Santa Monica, CA, 310-395-1676

MICHAEL NESMITH

Michael Nesmith's novel The Long Sandy Hair of Neftoon Zamora is moving closer to publication all the time. At press time, a publicist for St. Martin's Press told MBF the title has finally appeared in the publicity department's database, although no publication date has been announced. Nez expects to embark on a national booksigning tour when the book is published, sometime in 1998.

One event definitely on Nez's calendar for 1998 is his biennial gathering of some of the greatest thinkers of our time for the Gihon Foundation's Council On Ideas. This year's council members include: Jane Alexander, former head of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Tony Award-winning and Emmy and Academy Award-nominated actress; Dr. Ana Maria Cetto, professor of physics and biology at the University of Mexico; Henry Louis Gates Jr., professor of English and chairman of Afro-American studies at Harvard University; Stephen Jay Gould, professor of geology and zoology at Harvard; and Robert D. Kaplan, two-time Pulitzer Prize Nominee and contributing editor of "The Atlantic Monthly". The Council will convene in Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 17 through July 19 to draft and deliver a statement on the single issue of overriding importance of our time. Nesmith said in a press release, "The position statement that the Council presents is important not only because it is the product of five distinguished thought leaders thinking about the issues of the day, but it also tends to focus the global cultural imperative and give it a voice. This is the kind of work that is the province of philanthropy--only philanthropy can make something like the Council happen in a neutral environment." Council members receive a $5,000 honorarium for their participation in the event, as well as first class travel and accommodations for themselves and a guest.



Nesmith's Videoranch website offered new merchandise to Nez fans just in time for the holidays---framed Nez autographs, posters of the painting on which "Laugh Kills Lonesome" was based, and t-shirts of the album covers of Nez's albums "Magnetic South", "Loose Salute", and "Nevada Fighter". There's also a 2-CD set that includes both "The Prison" and "The Garden" in one double jewel-case. Videoranch now offers a color catalog; send a long self-addressed stamped envelope to Videoranch, Route 1 Box 133, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Orders may be placed by calling Videoranch at 505-455-2079 or through the Videoranch website at www.videoranch.com.

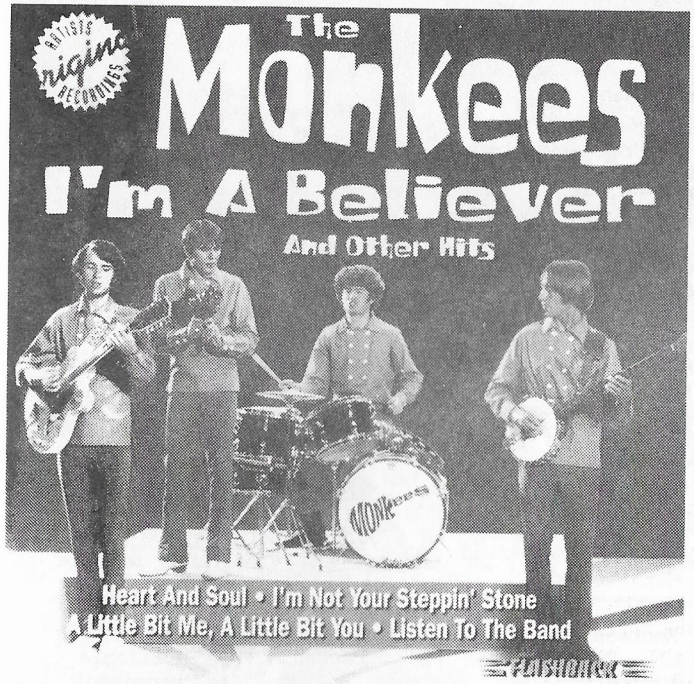
MONKEES PRODUCTS

The long-awaited Monkees Lunchbox from Rhino Video will hit stores at long last on March 17. The lunchbox was expected to be available last August, but manufacturing problems incurred delays. As promised, the lunchbox (metal, measuring 8" x 7" x 4") will contain a number of goodies inside: a mini jigsaw puzzle (10.5" x 12"), a mini cereal box (titled "The Monkees: The Breakfast Of Chimpions") with band stats on the side of the box replacing the nutritional information, and a 110-minute videotape of the four Monkees TV episodes that the guys named as their favorites. Included will be video clips---"newly recorded, never-before-seen footage," Rhino says---of each of the guys explaining why the episode was their favorite. Episodes include "Hitting the High Seas" (Davy's favorite), "The Frodis Caper" (Micky's favorite and the one he directed), "Monkees vs. Machine" (Peter's choice), and "Fairy Tale" (Nez's fave episode). Rhino says quantities of the lunchbox are very limited. If you can't find the Monkees Lunchbox in a video store near you, you can certainly order it through RhinoDirect at 1-800-432-0020. Retail price is $39.95.

On April 21, Rhino will release a two-CD Monkees set called "Monkees Anthology" (R2 75269). "Anthology" will not contain any unreleased Monkees tracks; instead, Rhino says the two-CD set is designed for the music buyer who needs more than just the single-CD "Greatest Hits" collection. "Anthology" is expected to include a track from the Monkees' 1996 reunion album "Justus", to bring the Monkees' musical saga up-to-date.

Last issue we told you that some fans had been finding it impossible to track down a copy of the Flashback CD "I'm A Believer and Other Hits", which contains the previously unreleased Monkees track, "Ceiling In My Room". Our

sources at Rhino had told us that the Flashback CD was "so low-budget" that it would not be available by mail order through RhinoDirect. After we went to press, other fans began to report to us that, in fact, they had had no trouble ordering the album through RhinoDirect! If you haven't tracked down a copy for yourself yet, yes, you can call RhinoDirect at 1-800-432-0020 to order "I'm A Believer and Other Hits" on CD (R2 72883) or cassette (R4 72883).


The Monkees
I'm A Believer
And Other Hits
Heart And Soul • I'm Not Your Steppin' Stone
A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You • Listen To The Band
FLASHBACK

A follow-up album will be issued on the Flashback label on March 17. Rhino had announced that the title would be "Daydream Believer and Other Hits", but Rhino tells MBF that their release schedule now lists it as "Pleasant Valley Sunday and Other Hits". The new album will include "Mustang" and will be issued on CD (R2 75242) and cassette (R4 75242).

Rhino got some nice publicity in December and January for its "Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees" documentary video when a very positive review of the documentary by Ben Wener of the Orange County Register (Dec. 19) was picked up by the national wire services and reprinted in newspapers all over the country. The documentary was also reviewed in Billboard (Dec. 13). Tower Records' "Pulse!" magazine (Dec. 1997) plugged "Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees" with a contest which gave away ten copies of the video.

If Monkees fans are frustrated at the seeming lack of progress on the Monkees movie, so are the folks at Rhino. They've come up with a concept to do an animated Monkees movie---"a big-budget direct-to-video movie," says Rhino chief Harold Bronson, "and if it's really good it might go into theaters." No deal has been made yet. The animated movie project is not intended to replace any other Monkees movie---it's a completely separate project.

Rhino's DVD release of the Monkees' movie "HEAD" is still slated for sometime in 1998.

For a while now we've been telling you that Acclaim Comics had planned to re-issue the original Monkees comic books in book form, in two or three volumes. We are sad to report that as of January, Acclaim has been forced to cancel publication of the Monkees project due to the fact that they were unable to find adequate distribution. Apparently comic book shops weren't lining up to stock the Monkees comics reprints. Even if Acclaim could come up with alternate distribution in the future, their license to use the

Monkees name and logo has expired and they would have to completely renegotiate the deal.

Meanwhile, MBF was recently contacted by Topps Comics, publishers of such TV-related comics as "The X-Files" and "Xena". Topps was looking into the possibility of doing a new Monkees comic to tie in with the guys' 30th Anniversary, but nothing further has been announced.

VIVA AVIVA!

Aviva, the multi-talented musician who played saxophone, flute, clarinet, and keyboards and provided backing vocals in the Monkees' backing band of the last two years, is recording a solo CD, "Reed My Mind", to be released in March. Monkees 1997 keyboard player Kincaid Miller is doubling as producer and co-writer on the project, and Monkees' 1996-97 lead guitarist Wayne Avers will also play on the album and contribute a song or two to the project. The format is "smooth jazz"---a style popularized by artists like Kenny G. and Dave Koz---mostly instrumental, but a few songs will feature vocals. At press time, Aviva says the basic tracks for the ten songs have already been recorded.

Monkees fans gave rave reviews to Aviva during the tours of the last two years, and it is that support which has made this project possible. As a special thank you to Monkees fans, the first run of CDs will be individually numbered and autographed by Aviva, Wayne, and Kincaid. "Without the Monkees fans, we would not be doing this project," Aviva told MBF. "Without them, I can honestly say I would have never met Wayne or worked with Kincaid. Monkees fans are great. They are very loyal and very loud. I used to come offstage and my ears would be ringing from the screams and cheers."

(photo by Rob Maloney)

Before Aviva joined the Monkees' 30th Anniversary reunion tour, she had toured with Marty Balin (formerly of Jefferson Airplane) and had played sax with smooth jazz artist Craig Chaquico. She'd also played with several Marin County-based artists, which is how she connected with Peter Tork: "I had played with Peter in Marin County with the Sam Andrews Band. Sam was the guitarist in Big Brother and the Holding Company, which featured Janis Joplin. Peter called me and asked if I would be interested in doing the Monkees' 30th Anniversary tour. Even with his plug, I still had to send in a demo tape. After several weeks--or maybe it was only days--of nail-biting, I got the call that I was in."

Aviva reminisced, "This tour has been a great experience, and I have had so much fun! The most memorable show of the last two years would have to be Wembley Arena, just because it was Wembley, it was a sell-out, and it had all four Monkees. The Universal Amphitheater is always special for me because I grew up in L.A. But playing on 'The Tonight Show With Jay Leno' and playing before the biggest audience the 'Today' show ever had for their summer concert series was incredible. The Monkees' fans are great. It was a great surprise to see the different generations of fans---kids, parents, and grandparents. But it's not surprising, when you think about it, because

(photo by Rob Maloney)

the Monkees' music is timeless." Favorite Monkees song: "I could cop out and say 'Since I Fell For You', because I love to play that sax solo. It has become a signature for me in each show. But it isn't a Monkees song...'Pleasant Valley Sunday', 'Girl I Knew Somewhere', '(Look Out) Here Comes Tomorrow', and, of course, 'I'm A Believer' and 'Daydream Believer'."

Aviva revealed that the funniest moment of the tour came one night in September in Memphis, TN: "Davy is always telling jokes, on stage and off. He's always funny. The band decided to see if he could take a joke, too. When we were in Memphis, my husband Rob set up a tour of Graceland for some of us, and Davy came along, too. A friend at Graceland slipped us a bag with one dozen Elvis glasses in it. At the show that night, Davy came on to do 'Valleri', and when he looked back at the band, we were all wearing the Elvis glasses. It was so funny that he could barely continue to sing and at times he just couldn't sing at all! After the show he told us how funny he thought it was and he couldn't believe that we 'got' him."

Asked if there was a down side to the tour, Aviva recalled, "Overnight bus trips, bus hair, sound checks, early morning wake up calls, and being away from my husband!"

Aviva admits to being a Monkees fan even before joining the tour band: "In fact, I have my original copy of the Monkees' first album. But, surprisingly, I never had it signed. It's not like we were together every minute."

Aviva hopes to have the chance to work with the Monkees again in the future, but in the meantime she'll use the unexpected free time to work on her solo career. Orders are being accepted now for the autographed limited edition of Aviva's "Reed My Mind" CD; send your check or money order for $15 per CD plus $2.50 shipping and handling to: Aviva, 38 Miller Avenue #208, Mill Valley, CA 94941. (Readers in Canada and Mexico, please add $3 postage; all overseas, add $4 postage. U.S. funds only, please.)

MONKEES ON THE TUBE

Cable music channel VH-1 ran a mini-marathon of Monkees episodes on November 27 from midnight to 3 am. VH-1 still holds the rights to run the Monkees' TV series, but at press time a VH-1 publicist tells MBF that the Monkees are not on the schedule for the near future.

BITS

According to Daily Variety (Dec. 10), Violet Carlson, who played Mrs. Homer on the "Monkee For Mayor" episode, died December 3 at the age of 97. Daily Variety describes her as a "famed vaudeville headliner and Broadway actress".

According to concert industry journal "Pollstar" (Jan. 19), performing rights organization SESAC filed a federal copyright infringement lawsuit against the promoters of the Monkees' September 20 concert in Atlanta. SESAC

was looking out for the rights of SESAC-affiliated songwriter Neil Diamond when it offered the promoters a licensing agreement covering the Monkees' performance of Diamond's compositions "I'm A Believer" and "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You". SESAC warned the promoters that performance of those songs without paid permission would constitute copyright infringement, but the promoters refused to pay.

In a wire story that ran in newspapers nationwide in December, the Monkees were mentioned in secret tobacco industry papers that were disclosed to the Congressional committee investigating the tobacco industry. One of the documents indicated that in 1967 the industry considered using the Monkees to advertise cigarettes to the youth market. The idea was sent to a public relations firm for further evaluation, but the advertising campaign never materialized.

A letter to the editor in the February 1998 issue of "Guitar World" corrected the modern myth that Charles Manson auditioned for the Monkees.

Actor Kevin Bacon was interviewed in the Nov. 19 issue of "Freetime Magazine" (Rochester, NY). Between movie roles, Bacon plays in The Bacon Brothers band, whose first CD was released Nov. 4. Bacon said that his first love was always music: "I started writing songs before I even took an acting class...All my heroes were guys with guitars. I wasn't that big of a movie fan. What I really loved was rock'n'roll. I really wanted to be a pop star, like the Monkees and Bobby Sherman and the Beatles. I guess I kind of got into the acting thing because I was getting frustrated with my inability to really play the guitar....So I decided to take acting classes when I was about 13. And at that point the desire to be Davy Jones got replaced by the desire to be Meryl Streep."

In an interview in "Alternative Press Magazine" (Feb. 1998), Dicky Barrett of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones described the relationship among the eight members of the band: "We're just like you imagined the Monkees to be...a surrogate family...guys that don't want to grow up...We had each other when no one cared, and we'll have each other when no one cares again. That was the whole idea of the band---to do it together."

According to Seattle music newspaper Rocket (Jan. 14), Sunset Valley, a five-piece rock band from Portland, OR, performs the Monkees' "Porpoise Song" as their closing number.

According to the San Antonio Express-News (Nov. 2), Willie "Jitterbug" Webb died Oct. 31 at the age of 56 after a long battle with cancer. Webb was a member of The Goodtimers, the band which backed the Monkees on their 1969 concert tour.

---Maggie McManus, New Jersey

Before the Monkees' Australian tour was cancelled, the guys were scheduled to play at The Crown Casino in Melbourne. It's a new (only seven months old) first class venue which seats about 800. (An 800-seat venue is good-sized for Australia; we are only a small country!) Already, Whitney Houston, Elton John, Rod Stewart, and Celine Dion have played there. Tickets for the Monkees' shows were priced at $60 each. The guys' stay in Melbourne would have coincided with the Australian Grand Prix race, and on March 6 they were slated to play at the Grand Prix Ball at the Crown Casino, an event priced at $600 a head!!!

There were a couple shows scheduled at venues where liquor licenses required all audience members to be over 18. Other venues said it had not even occurred to them that kids would want to attend a Monkees show, and they were prepared to make exceptions.

Excitement for the tour was high among fans. The folks at the Rooty Hill RSL Club were amazed by the response they'd received, just from word of mouth, the fan clubs, and the Internet. A spokesman there was certain the Monkees would sell out both shows, and that was before any "official" tour

publicity began! Unfortunately, the Monkees grapevine worked equally well when news broke of the tour cancellation. Fans knew about the cancellation and were ringing the venues asking about ticket refunds days before the promoter and tour publicist got the word. The whole situation angered a number of people in the business; we can only hope that this bad experience won't hurt the Monkees' chances of touring Australia the next time they decide to reunite. What a horrible way to finish the 30th Anniversary tour.

---Anne O'Reilly, president, The Oz/NZ Monkeemaniacs Club, AUSTRALIA

Barry John Faulkner, the con man who impersonated Mike Nesmith here in Australia in the late 1970s, was profiled in-depth on the TV show, "Australia's Most Wanted", on October 16. He had been released from prison only a couple months earlier and was up to his old tricks again immediately. He posed as a millionaire Texas air force colonel and preyed upon the vulnerability of several widows with young daughters. The widows would eventually accept his proposal of marriage, and then he would fleece them for all they had and sexually abuse their young daughters. The following week, Oct. 23, "Australia's Most Wanted" reported that the police had received over 500 telephone calls from TV viewers about Faulkner, an all-time record for the show for just one single criminal! As a result, Barry John Faulkner was subsequently located and arrested November 10, 1997. He was wanted by police in four different states. ---Colin Sherwood, AUSTRALIA

There is a radio station here in New Zealand with a weekly show, "Friday Night Juke Box", which is dedicated to '60s music only. On Dec. 19, they played "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You", a rare treat for NZ Monkeemaniacs because the stations that do play Monkees music usually only play "Daydream Believer" and "I'm A Believer". Also, there's another writing campaign going on to bombard NVNZ's Channel 2 with letters and petitions to bring the Monkees back to our TV screens. We hope to have our favourite '60s sitcom back on TV in a short time. ---Corinna Donaldson, NEW ZEALAND

"33 1/3 Revolutions Per Monkee", the Monkees' 1969 TV special, was released in Japan on videotape November 25. The laserdisc release was delayed until late December. The Monkees movie "HEAD" was scheduled to be issued in Japan on videotape and laserdisc on January 25, but the release of both formats was postponed until February 21. Both "33 1/3" and "HEAD" include English dialogue with Japanese subtitles. "HEAD" has been newly subtitled for this release. The cover design of "33 1/3" is the same as the British version released in 1997. Warner Vision in Japan says that both videos really reflect the psychedelic era and that the purpose of releasing them is to give a strong impression of that era to the current generation of teens and twenty-somethings who would not otherwise know the psychedelic generation of the '60s. ---Hanako Ozaki, JAPAN

The new U.K. Nesmith compilation album "Listen to the Band" was reviewed in the Dec. 1997 issue of "Record Collector" in the country albums section.

The Monkees' TV show returned to Channel Four in the U.K. starting December 22 at 11:30 am. "The Love Bug", featuring Micky Dolenz, was shown on the U.K. Disney Channel on Jan. 4. ---Joyce Pitman, ENGLAND

"HEAD" was shown on cable in the U.K. on Sky Movies Screen 2 on Saturday, January 3. ---Lina Barbieri, ENGLAND

The Monkees' 1997 ABC-TV special was aired February 1 and 2 on MuchMusic cable network in Canada. ---Michelle McKelvey, CANADA

The Monkees' movie "HEAD" was shown throughout November on Canada's Pix movie channel. ---Charlene Kay, CANADA

On Nov. 24, an entertainment TV program from Quebec, Canada, called "Flash" (TQB), said the Monkees were the most popular boys band after the Beatles and gave the inspiration to the Backstreet Boys to be the next greatest group in the world. ---Kateleen Kesley, CANADA

According to a Jan. 27 wire service report, Warner Music Group, which already owns 50% of Rhino Records and distributes Rhino's product to retail, is poised to purchase the remaining 50% of the company. The report claims that Rhino has an estimated total value of about $120 million and is considered the music industry's biggest re-issue label. One of the points still under negotiation is compensation for Rhino chief executives and founders Harold Bronson and Richard Foos. ---Rosinha Viegas, BRAZIL

Micky Dolenz was a celebrity contestant on Lifetime cable network's game show "Debt" on December 1. Unfortunately he was the first to be eliminated, but he still got $500 for his charity. ---Erin Barton, IL

Micky appeared on syndicated game show "Pictionary" on January 7-9. His team lost the first two nights and won the final night.

Ami Dolenz's birthday was mentioned on "Entertainment Tonight", Jan. 8. ---Sara McKnight, WI

Micky Dolenz appeared on syndicated game show "Pictionary" on Jan. 7-9. The first day, Micky was introduced by Alan Thicke as America's favorite prime time primate. Micky said, "Prime time primate? Who writes these things?" Alan answered, "Your old writers!" The next day, Alan introduced him, "He's here to prove even a Monkee can play Pictionary--Micky Dolenz!" Alan did a quick interview with Micky, but Micky missed something Alan said, so Micky did his old man routine and Alan said Micky's hearing was bad because of standing too close to Peter Tork all those years. Micky mentioned that he played guitar before he played drums. The final day, Micky said he was directing live situation comedies in England.

There's a current TV commercial for a collection of TV show theme songs. When the Monkees' theme started playing, the voiceover said, "Don't Monkee around---buy these tapes now!"

---Julie Harris, MN

(photo by Andrea Chempinski)

On January 11 and January 24, the Disney Channel repeated the "Muppets Tonight" episode which guest-starred Cindy Crawford and included a guest appearance of Micky Dolenz singing "I'm A Believer".
---Celeste Kocot, MO

The Monkees played a private show in Las Vegas in November as part of COMDEX, the huge computer industry trade show that took over Las Vegas for a week. The private show was put on by Claris software at the Harley-Davidson Cafe, where a jubilant crowd was touting the success of Claris's product line. Unfortunately, they were unaware of the "Monkees Curse"---on January 28, Claris laid off 300-400 employees and fell victim to a major re-structuring by its parent company Apple Computer.

According to the people at Michael Nesmith's company Videoranch, Nez is reportedly working on two movies in Los Angeles. Videoranch is trying to license the "Austin City Limits" episode he performed on for release through their catalog. They will also be offering a poster of "...tropical campfire's...". ---Brad Waddell, AZ

According to a Reuters wire service report (January 6), a film version of Douglas Adams' novel The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is finally being made. Several years ago, Michael Nesmith owned the option on the film rights and had at one time collaborated with Adams on the script. This time Adams will start fresh on the script, but the report says "Nesmith will maintain some kind of 'godfather' role", whatever that means. Hollywood Pictures will release the movie to theaters in the summer of 2000. A conflicting report in radio trade paper The Daily Insider (Jan. 8) says Nez is now collaborating on the script with director Jay Roach, Douglas Adams, and Ivan Reitman.

Session guitarist Tommy Tedesco died of lung cancer in November at his home in Northridge, California. He was 67. He can be heard on Michael Nesmith's "The Wichita Train Whistle Sings" album and on many rock'n'roll classics.

In the Dec. 20 issue of "TV Guide" in the letters section, a letter from a viewer disputes the magazine's Top 10 Holiday Episodes list and recommends the Monkees Christmas episode as one of the ten best ever.

On Dec. 15, "Access Hollywood" showed a clip of Davy talking about seeing "Marcia" again, during a segment on the Billboard Music Awards.
---Tara Pearce, CT

On January 17, cable channel TV Land showed the episode of "Love American Style" with Davy and Karen Valentine. ---Flo Newrock, NJ

The Sci-Fi Network aired Michael Nesmith's movie "Repo Man" on Nov. 23.
---Yodi Collins, VA

On Jan. 3, ABC repeated the episode of "Sabrina The Teenage Witch" that Davy appeared in.

On Dec. 18, TNT cable network showed Davy Jones' appearance on "Scooby-Doo". ---Robert Carlson, MA

On Jan. 25, on a Nashville Network show about automobile repair, the hosts visited the Cars of the Stars museum in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Host Mike Anson showed the VW from the movie "The Love Bug", then the Pontiac Firebird Trans-Am used for "Knight Rider". Then he started singing the Monkees' theme and showed the Monkeemobile. His co-host Trisha Hessinger arrived and explained, "The car has a supercharger and look at all the room back here for their musical instruments." The car was parked next to the Batboat from the "Batman" TV series. ---Roy Stuts, NY

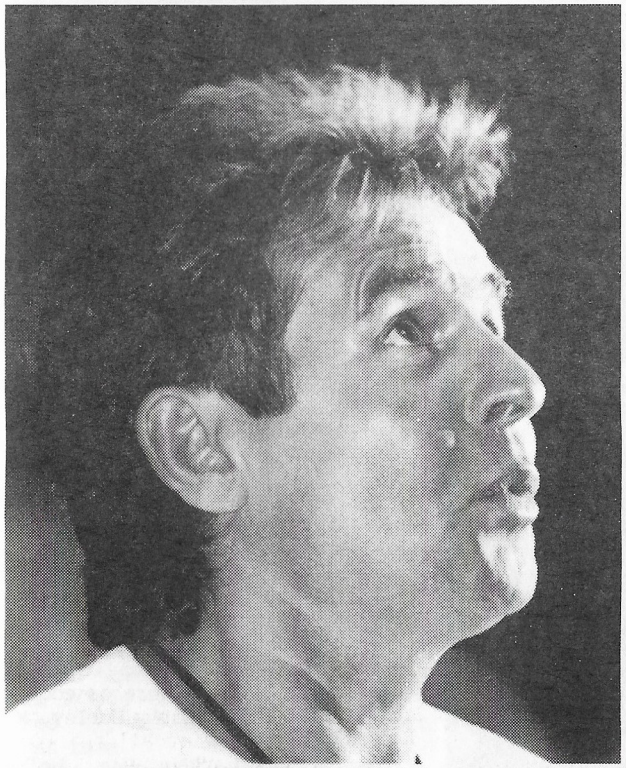
The Monkees were featured on the Jan. 20 edition of NBC's "Dateline" in the "What Year Was It?" segment for the year 1967. "I'm A Believer" was the featured song. ---Roseann Flickenger, PA

On Oprah Winfrey's syndicated talk show on February 10, Oprah's guest was a writer who had researched Texans who'd become millionaries because of inventions or discoveries. He mentioned Bette Nesmith Graham's invention of Liquid Paper and showed a color photo of her. He added, "If the name sounds familiar, her son Michael Nesmith was one of the Monkees." A black and white shot of Nez from the episode "The Case of the Missing Monkee" was shown and the guest went on to say that Nez came up with the original concept for MTV.
---Peg McManus, NJ

WDIV-TV, channel 4 in Detroit, ran a preview show for the Thanksgiving Day Parade on Wednesday night, Nov. 26. Included in the preview were classic episodes of '60s TV series---"Donna Reed", "Gidget", and "The Monkees" (the "Monkees at the Movies" episode). ---Mary Guerra, MI

VH-1 aired the Monkees' Christmas episode at 8:30 am on December 20. VH-1 also rebroadcast the Billboard Music Awards at 9 pm on Dec. 20.

There's a small Monkees mention in the March issue of "Movieline" magazine. The article is more or less a bad review of "33 1/3 Revolutions Per Monkee", as well as a put-down of the TV show---"anybody who remembers, or who's caught them in syndication, knows how unbearable their TV show was. These guys are proof that the '60s weren't all be-ins and love beads." But it conceded that the Monkees produced some Grade A bubblegum music and said Micky was the Matthew Perry (of "Friends") of his day.


(photo by Michelle Chestnut)

On Dec. 11, it was announced on "Entertainment Tonight" that recording artists Hanson may be getting their own TV show, which would be a cross between "The Monkees" and "The Larry Sanders Show".
---Cari Cates, CT

Davy Jones is interviewed in "go figure!" magazine, a toy collecting magazine with emphasis on action figures. The article is called "Pop Goes The Icon" and talks about the collectibility of Monkees merchandise from the '60s versus the future value of Spice

Girls and Hanson merchandise. Davy talks about the trials of being a pop icon and shares some anecdotes about life as a Monkee. "Justus" and the recent tour are also mentioned. If you can't locate a copy in your area, you can order the issue for $4.95 plus $1.45 postage from: go figure! magazine, 1325 N. Curson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036-2306. Be sure to ask for issue number 3. The "go figure!" website (www.gofiguremagazine.com) says the magazine is available at Tower Records and Waldenbooks.

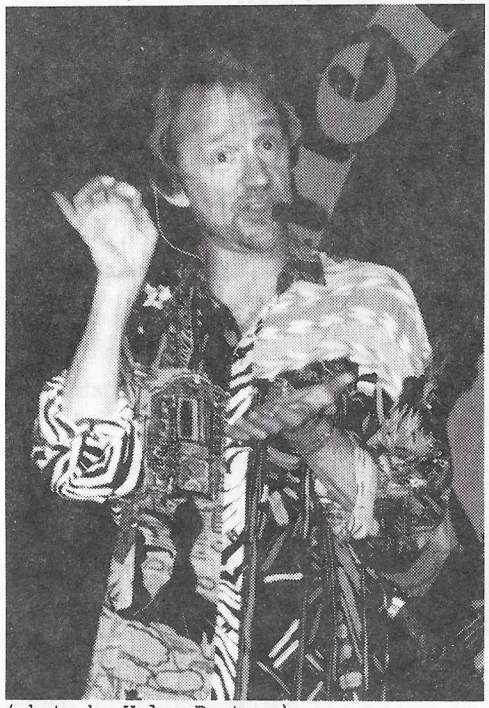
---R.D. Colls, CA

A photo of the Monkees can be found in the Feb. 1998 issue of "Games" magazine. It's a sepia-toned shot of the four of them from "Monkee See, Monkee Die", and it's part of a huge collage of photos of TV actors. The guys are behind Gabe "Kotter" Kaplan and Henry "Fonzie" Winkler. Around the edge of the photo are printed parts of the theme songs from 33 prime time TV shows, past and present, and the idea is to match the photos of the actors with the lyrics from the theme songs of their TV shows.

---Sue Guentner, FL

In the Dec. 20 issue of "TV Guide" there's an article titled "Hey, Hey, We're the Hansons!", which mentions the possibility of recording artists Hanson doing a weekly TV series. "TV Guide" describes the concept as "'The Monkees' meets 'Larry Sanders'". ---Kisah Feder, SC

According to a recent article in The Toledo Blade, the Nissan ad with "I'm A Believer" has won an award for the TBWA/Chiat Day agency which produced it. The article described the ad: "One winner featured a sedate farmer who, after trading his old pickup truck for a flashy new Altima, drives doughnuts on the farm in front of his bemused wife."



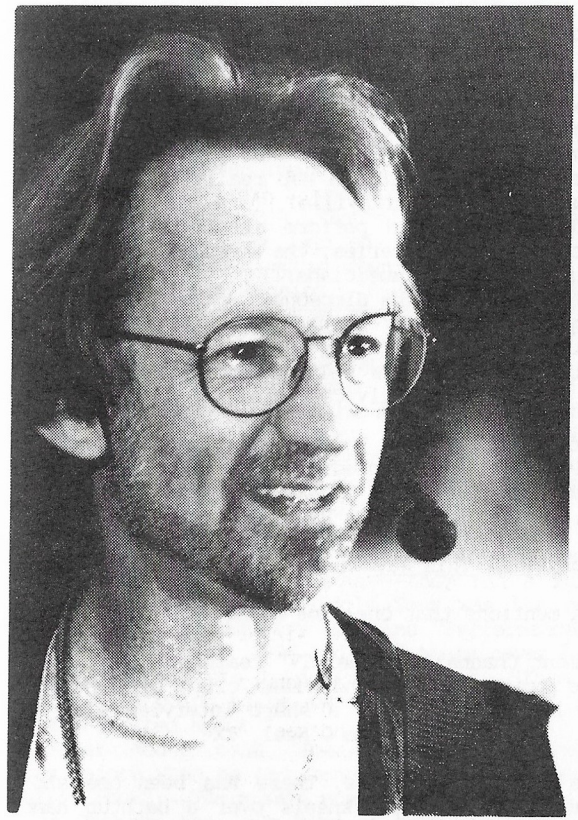
(photo by Helen Pantuso)

The Monkees have a small mention in "Entertainment Weekly" (Feb. 6). It's in the time capsule section, covering Feb. 12, 1967. The text about the Monkees reads: "Those telegenic Beatles wannabes the Monkees make true believers of their critics, remaining at No. 1 for the seventh straight week with 'I'm A Believer'. After breaking up, three members of the band would reunite and tour in 1986." There is also a small photo of the four from the first season. ---Robin McConnell, OH

The "Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees" documentary video got a favorable mini-review in "Entertainment Weekly" (Nov. 21, 1997). The review says, "In fact, nonfans might even gain new respect for the group that got its start by playing a rock group on TV," and it adds, "Who knew the Monkees were so cool?"

---Cathy Hurley, MD

The Monkees' "Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees" documentary video got a great write-up from reviewer Jeff Cade in the December 4 edition of The Arizona Republic (Phoenix, Arizona).



(photo by Michelle Chestnut)

The local NBC affiliate in Phoenix is currently running a commercial with their 5 pm news anchors talking about their commitment to Arizona and the news---the Monkees' "You and I" instrumental plays in the background.

The Monkees' TV show is no longer on the local channel in Phoenix.

"Entertainment Tonight" failed to mentioned either Davy Jones' or Michael Nesmith's birthdays on December 30---that's the first time that's happened in years. ---Nancy Clark, AZ

The Flashback label CD "I'm A Believer and Other Hits" contains not only the previously unreleased track "Ceiling In My Room", but also contains the non-hand-clip version of "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You", which hasn't appeared on CD since the Arista compilations "The Monkees Greatest Hits", "Then and Now: The Best of the Monkees", and "Monkees By Request" (three-disc Japanese box set).

---Keith T. Brittain, NC

On the recent Flashback/Rhino CD, "I'm A Believer and Other Hits," much attention has been focused on its inclusion of the much-anticipated first release of "Ceiling In My Room." However, the CD also contains another rarity ---the only CD release of the original mono single mix of "The Girl I Knew Somewhere", which, in my opinion, is superior to the stereo mix available on other CDs. ---Glenn Sadin, CA

Monkees producers/songwriters Tommy Boyce and Bobby Hart appear on an import CD called "Things Go Better With Coke: Sixties Coca-Cola Commercials 1965-69". It contains two 60-second Boyce & Hart commercials.

---Robert Ferin, NY

The Cartoon Network occasionally runs repeats of "Devlin" at 3:30 am Eastern time. "Devlin" was a Hanna-Barbera animated series that ran on ABC from 9/7/74 to 2/15/76, and Micky provided the voice of Todd Devlin, one of three orphans struggling to support themselves by performing as a motorcycle stunt team.

The Cartoon Network occasionally runs "Funky Phantom" at 9 am and 4:30 am

Eastern time. Micky is the voice of Skip.

The Great TV Sitcom Book by Rick Mitz has a wildly inaccurate article on the Monkees' TV series. It says the guys "starred...as themselves, the Monkees. They wrote and performed all the music and rollicked through slapstick routines in this most unrealistic show....As is well-known the group was 'manufactured' by music mogul Don Kirshner who picked the Not-So-Fab Four from more than 500 applicants...Although not really all musicians, they did have three hits, 'Last Train to Clarksville', 'I'm A Believer', and 'Words'." Gee, the guys did not write and perform all the music on the series, Kirshner did not create or cast the series, the Monkees had more than three hits, and we know the guys are really musicians!!!

The Monkees are mentioned in the book The Simpsons: A Complete Guide to Our Favorite Family, edited by Ray Richmond. On page 161, the character of Dr. Zweig (the psychoanalyst in the "Fear of Flying" episode) has this quirk: "believes the Monkees were about rebellion as well as social and political upheaval." ---Sally Carpenter, IN

In Pamela DesBarres' book Rock Bottom: Dark Moments in Music Babylon (1996, St. Martin's Press), Peter Tork is quoted on his "fling" with Janis Joplin. He was a busboy at the time. He also speaks about possible reasons for her drug use and overdose. ---Leslie Harris, IL

The Aerosmith autobiography Walk This Way contains a chapter subtitled "The Monkees on Drugs".

The Winona Ryder Scrapbook mentions that one-time Monkee Mike Nesmith was the producer of "Square Dance".

On Nov. 22, E! Entertainment Channel's "Model TV" featured a segment on Donovan Leitch which included brief concert and video clips of Nancy Boy (Donovan and Jason Nesmith's band) as well as a short interview with the band. ---Tracye O'Neal, TX

On the Sundance Channel's "Shorts" segments, there has been one short titled, "Clear Up Sleepy Jeans", where a man kneels over a bathtub hand-washing jeans. The narrator says, "Jim Newbury is washing his smalls. As he does so, he hums to himself a pop song from the early seventies, 'Clear Up Sleepy Jeans'." He sings the first two lines of the "Daydream Believer" chorus. "Now nearly ten years later, Jim is wondering what this song could possibly mean. For years he's been singing to himself, 'clear up sleepy jeans', as in denims. Could the singer be asking listeners to clear up jeans?" The camera pans around the room scattered with jeans. "But no. No one would write a song about this. Would they?" I couldn't believe it the first time I saw it!

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel ran a feature on various pop phenomenons on January 30. The Monkees were sandwiched between Josie and the Pussycats and Madonna. ---Elizabeth Vojtko, WI

In a review of the Spice Girls' movie, Portland's free weekly arts newspaper Willamette Week (Jan. 28) said the movie is no "A Hard Day's Night", but "the film has more in common with 'HEAD', Bob Rafelson's 1968 psychedelic dissection of another prefab construct: the Monkees. Served up with ample cameos, absurdity and music of questionable merit, both nonsensically reflect the Zeitgeist of their times while coyly nibbling the hand that feeds." ---Sylvia Giustina, OR

Sundazed Records' latest catalog, "Sundazed Times" issue #8, includes stickers of the various artists in the catalog. One sticker is of the Monkees. ---Frank Blefari, CT

The Teen Idols Tour

Shortly after it was announced that the Monkees would not tour together in the summer of 1998, Davy Jones made an announcement of his own regarding his plans for 1998. In late November, Davy told MBF that he, Peter Noone (of Herman's Hermits), and Bobby Sherman would be hitting the road in what had been titled "The Teen Idols Tour".

"Peter [Noone] and I have talked for years about doing something," Davy told Billboard (Jan. 31), "Bobby's been doing other stuff." Teen idol Bobby Sherman more or less retired from show business after his early 1970s acting/singing career wound down; he became an emergency medical technician (paramedic) in Los Angeles. Davy joked in Billboard that Bobby is on the tour "to revive us, since we're old now".

While Noone and Davy have crossed paths a number of times over the years---they've appeared on various talk shows together and last year even scheduled a couple concerts together---Bobby Sherman also has Monkees connections. Not only did he appear in a Monkees episode ("Monkees at the Movies") early in his career, but Monkees manager Ward Sylvester has also been Bobby's manager since the beginning.

Always a master at the publicity game, Davy gave the Teen Idols Tour a massive plug on national television during his stint as a presenter at the live broadcast of the Billboard Music Awards in December. But Paradise Artists, the agency putting the Teen Idols on the road, is also proving to be no slouch at hyping the tour---they ran a full page ad in trade journal "Pollstar", and the Teen Idols Tour was the cover story of the January 9 issue of concert industry magazine "Performance"---giving the tour the kind of push the Monkees' 1996 and 1997 tours never had.

Paradise Artists told "Performance", "This is our answer to The Three Tenors. It's going to be extremely popular and it is something that everyone is very excited about."

Peter Noone told "Performance" that the idea for the tour germinated years before when he and Davy appeared on a teen idols episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show": "Davy said something at the time that maybe it was time to do a Rat Pack of the '60s kind of tour. [Recently] Paradise Artists suggested it, and Davy came over and we started talking about it. But we needed a third party. We wanted to keep the teen idols theme genuine; it had to be someone who had been on all the fan magazines."

The third member of the tour had to be someone who would bring a bit of

Davy, Peter Noone & Bobby Sherman (photo courtesy of Paradise Artists)

The Teen Idols Tour starring Davy Jones, Peter Noone & Bobby Sherman

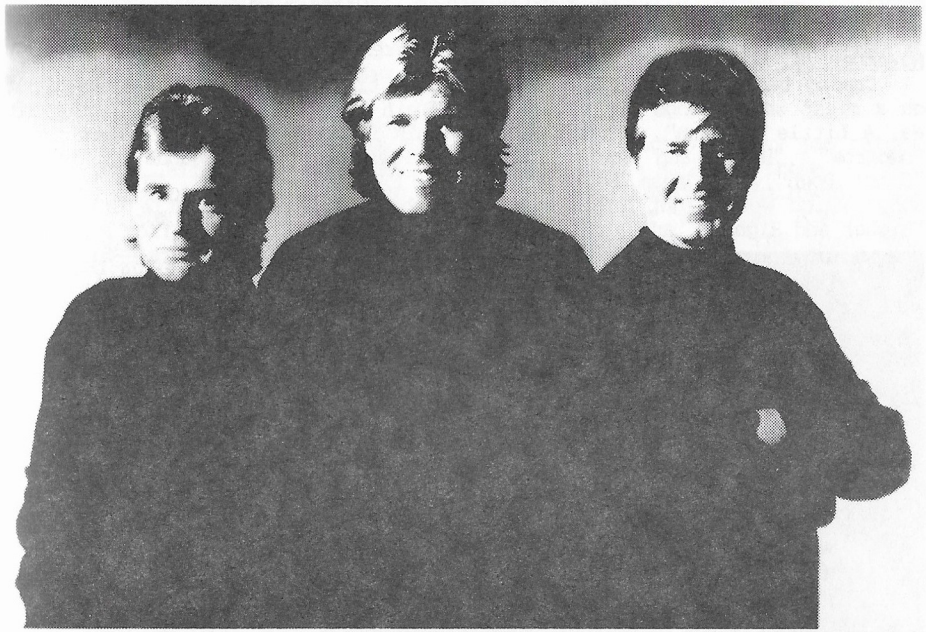
Date	Venue
June 17	Grandstand, Steamboat Days, Burlington, IA, 319-754-4334
June 20	Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheatre, Burgettstown (Pittsburgh), PA, 412-947-7827
June 25	Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, MN, 612-445-9000
July 4	City of Dublin Fourth of July Celebration, Dublin Coffman Auditorium, Dublin, OH, 614-761-6500 (City of Dublin)
July 5	HersheyPark Amphitheatre, Hershey, PA, 717-534-3911
July 11	Cardinal Stadium, Louisville, KY, 502-367-9121 or 502-361-3100
July 21	Arlington Theatre, Costa Mesa, CA, 805-963-9503
July 30	Isle of Capri Casino, West Lake, LA, 318-430-0711
July 31	Isle of Capri Casino, Bossier City, LA, 318-747-2400
Aug. 1	Isle of Capri Casino, Biloxi, MS, 601-435-5400
Aug. 8	Celebrity Theatre, Phoenix, AZ, 602-267-9373
Aug. 14	The DeltaPlex, Walker (Grand Rapids), MI, 616-364-9000
Aug. 15	Rosemont Theatre, Rosemont, IL, 847-671-5100
Aug. 20	Municipal Auditorium, Charleston, WV, 304-345-1500
Aug. 21	The Palace Theatre, Myrtle Beach, SC, 803-448-0588
Aug. 22	Frederick Brown Jr. Amph., Peachtree City, GA, 770-631-0630
Aug. 27	New York State Fair, Syracuse, NY, 315-487-8636
Aug. 28	Palace Theatre, Stamford, CT, 203-325-4466
Aug. 29	Warwick Musical Theatre, Warwick, RI, 401-821-7300
Aug. 30	Foxwoods Casino, Ledyard, CT, 860-885-3000
Sep. 11	to be announced, Portland, OR

More dates will be added; check MBF's update system (see page 2) for the latest list in the weeks and months ahead, and check out the updated list in the June issue of Monkee Business Fanzine.

mystique, someone who had not been as visible over the years as Davy Jones and Peter Noone have been. A few names were tossed around and Bobby Sherman ended up as the third member of the trio. "He's the perfect wild card for us," Noone said, "because so many people were in love with him, but nobody knows what he does now. When they see him perform again, they'll go, 'Wow, he's really good!' He's so much more than you expect." Regarding Bobby's affiliation with the Los Angeles Police Academy (as medical officer and first aid/CPR instructor), Noone joked, "It's perfect. I can do the music, Davy can do the merchandising, and Bobby can do the security. We don't need anybody else!"

Bobby Sherman, who hasn't toured in 22 years, told "Performance" he was immediately interested in the tour when contacted by Paradise Artists. He'd wanted to find "something fresh" to do. He'd missed the spotlight, but he hadn't wanted to go on tour unless he felt it was right. "Mainly there hasn't been anything to tour for. There wasn't really a demand for it. Over the last three or four years, there's been a '70s resurgence, so of course that worked well for me, and I think mainly what makes this work is the timing," Bobby said.

Peter Noone explained that the format of the concert was still being ironed out, but that all three teen idols will perform together at the start, then chat a bit with the audience---"Then Bobby will perform, then Davy and I will do a song with Bobby. Then we'll do a set with just Davy and me; maybe Bobby will join us later. We've done a couple of interviews together and we were very amused, had a lot of fun with one another. If we can carry that into our performances, it's going to really be a lot of fun for everyone involved."



Davy, Peter Noone & Bobby Sherman (photo courtesy of Paradise Artists)

"Performance" says that, although the tour is expected to pass through Las Vegas, the primary venues this year will be festivals and state fairs. "There's nothing better than playing a place where your greatest competition is food," Noone quipped.

Paradise Artists says that this year the tour will depend heavily on radio for promotions and giveaways to build the frenzy in each market. Ticket prices will vary from one venue to the next, but they are expected to be low. Merchandising will include beach towels and possibly a Teen Idols teddy bear. "Obviously, we're going to have the t-shirts and posters and things like that. We'll do a video and probably put out a greatest hits record with songs by all three of them. There is a huge merchandising opportunity here," Paradise says.

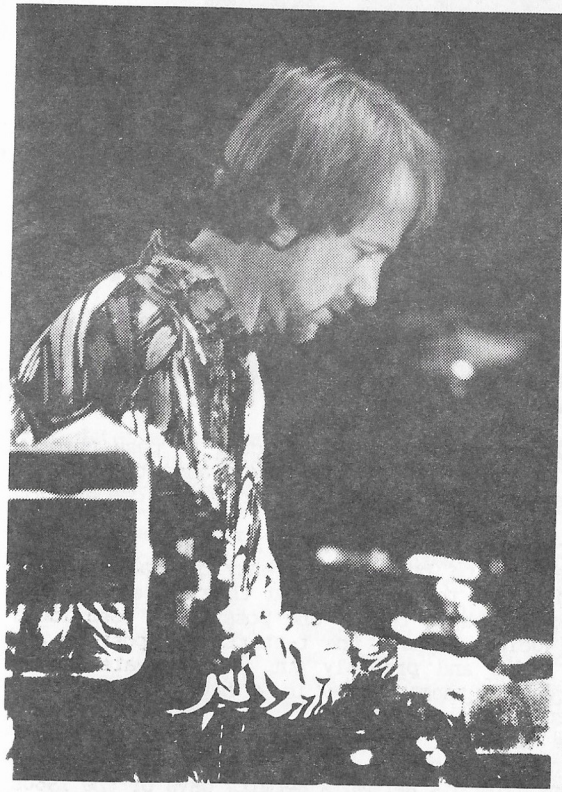
As Monkees fans know, the Monkees' demographic is incredibly broad, drawing fans aged 5 to 65 to Monkees' concerts. Likewise, Peter Noone has an equally broad demographic of fans from his Herman's Hermits days of the 1960s and, much more recently, from his stint hosting "My Generation" on VH-1. Even Bobby Sherman told "Performance" that his 1970s fans now have kids of their own who are growing up on his music: "I get a lot of mail because these young kids saw my TV show or heard my old albums and then became fans." Noone affirmed, "When I had Bobby as a guest [on 'My Generation'], [he] got incredible amounts of mail. Incredible. He has an incredible fan base. He got as much mail as The Who."

Bobby added, "From what [Paradise] told me, they think this tour could have legs for about two and a half years. They're putting together the overall dates now, and my guess is that they'll keep going straight through. This could encompass a great deal. They haven't talked about European dates, but I think that is in the future." Paradise Artists confirmed, "This is the kind of tour that easily has a two-or-three-year shelf-life. It's going to go strong."

The Last of the Monkees 30th Anniversary Tour, Year Two

November 28, Mt. Airy Lodge, Mt. Pocono, PA

Coming back to the hotel for the second time this year, the Monkees put on a great show! Songs included: "Last Train to Clarksville", "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You", "That Was Then, This Is Now", "(Look Out) Here Comes Tomorrow", "Heart and Soul", "Words", "Pleasant Valley Sunday", "Girl", "Goin' Down", "Daydream Believer", "Girl I Knew Somewhere", "The Porpoise Song" which went right into "Listen to the Band", "Your Auntie Grizelda", "Higher and Higher", and a blues tune ("Since I Fell For You") from Micky and the One-Nighters---his PMS (pre-Monkee singing!). Also played were "Randy Scouse Git", "For Pete's Sake", "I'll Love You Forever", "I'm A Believer", and "(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone".



(photo by Michelle Chestnut)

Micky tried to leave after "Last Train to Clarksville" but Peter and Davy told him the concert wasn't over yet. Another great part of the concert was when Micky wanted everyone quiet. He shouted over screaming fans, "If you're not quiet, I'll give you a spanking and send you to my room!" Just then everyone started screaming at the top of their lungs. It was a lot of fun!

During one part of the concert, Peter was saying, "People are calling out my name and showing me pictures of myself, like I don't know my name or what I look like!" During another part, things started going wrong. While up front, playing the guitar, Micky noticed the monitors went dead. He made a slicing motion across his neck and pointed to the monitors. In the same song, I think, Peter's keyboard went dead, too, and he had to use the tambourine.

Four or five girls, about 16 or 17 years old, were holding up a sign that said, "We can sing the Brady Bunch!" Davy called them up to do just that! For "Valleri", Davy came out dressed up to be Elvis. "No Time" was played as the encore. Then the trademark Monkee Walk was done off the stage.

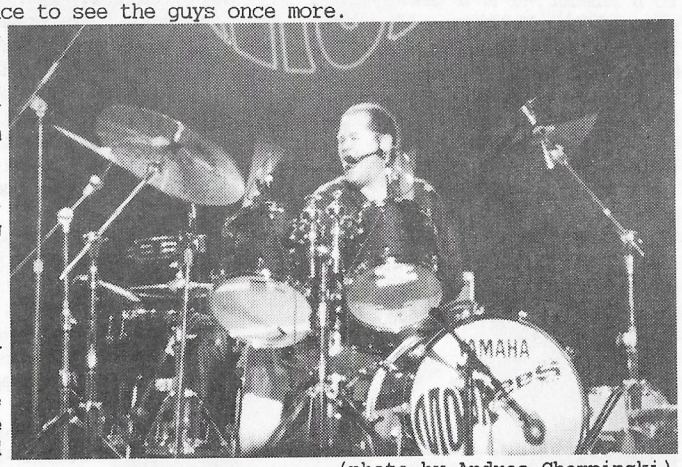
After the concert, Micky and Davy were walking around the hotel. (Davy said Peter was sleeping.) Monkees fans, including my best friend Steph and me, were up until three or four o'clock in the morning following Micky and Davy around. We got a picture with Micky, a picture with Davy, and they were kind enough to sign my December issue of MBF and my tour book. They also signed Steph's tour book. We were, and still are, very thankful to the Monkees---and to my parents, for taking us! It was great!!!---Gina Monturo, PA

November 29, Concord Hotel/Resort, Kiamesha Lake, NY

Davy Jones sang a medley of songs from "Oliver!" and he also sang "Daddy's Song", complete with the dance from "HEAD". He performed "Daddy's Song" again the next night in New Haven, CT.---Michelle Chestnut, VA

November 30, Palace Theatre, New Haven, CT

The show opened with the backup band doing a lengthy bluesy jam before playing Davy, Micky, and Peter onto the stage with the Monkees' theme. "Last Train to Clarksville" and "(Look Out) Here Comes Tomorrow" followed. The crowd was small but loud, having come from as far away as Boston and Philadelphia on one of the most heavily traveled days of the year, and overjoyed at the chance to see the guys once more.



(photo by Andrea Chempinski)

Micky bid everyone good night after the first two songs, but Peter and Davy wouldn't let him leave. "Work, work, work, that's all I do," Micky complained, "slaving over a hot set of drums all day long, and what thanks do I get?" Peter said, "You get paid!" Davy added, "You get paid, and these people have been standing in the rain for hours and hours!" which got a huge cheer from the people who indeed had been forced to stand in the rain for hours. (The show was a couple hours late getting started, and theatre management refused to let the growing crowd into the theatre lobby until the tiny vestibule was so packed that ticket buyers couldn't get to the box office!)

"I'll Be Back Up On My Feet" and "Your Auntie Grizelda" followed. "The Girl I Knew Somewhere" was introduced as "a song by that other guy". Davy, somewhat confused on his Monkees history, introduced "That Was Then, This Is Now" as "a song off our 1986 album called 'Pool It!'".

Before "I'll Love You Forever", Davy explained that he had written the song for a couple of friends who were getting married and asked him to write their wedding song. "I wrote them this song, and then they called it off," he said. "So this song is up for grabs if anybody wants this."

"Goin' Down" found Micky and Aviva trading scat lines and sax solos back and forth. For "Valleri", Davy did not change into his Elvis outfit, but the backup band played him offstage with "Viva Las Vegas" anyway. Later, when he came back for his solo segment, they played "Viva Las Vegas" as he entered. Davy told the audience, "I'm sure you're confused with that little ditty that they keep playing. They think I have an Elvis complex! He was one of my heroes and I'm always talking about it so they keep playing the song."

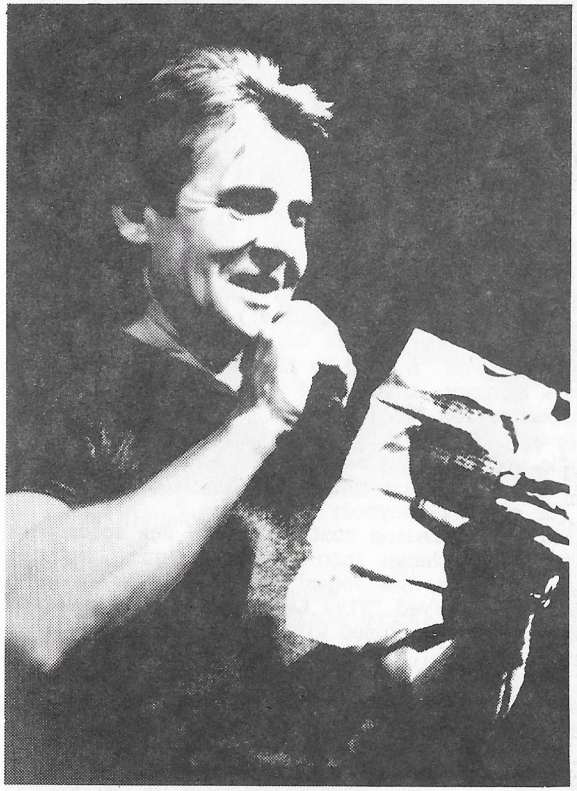
Peter performed "I Believe You". He announced that "Justus" and "Two Man Band" had been "named to a pre-nominations list from which the final Grammy nominees are selected".

Davy did "Daddy's Song" complete with dance. Davy has always managed to save "Daddy's Song" for his West Coast audiences---it was wonderful to finally see it here on the East Coast.

Micky's solo spot included "Since I Fell For You", his Jimi Hendrix story and his "old Monkees on tour" routine. "Here we are just finishing up our 30th year anniversary tour," Micky said. "But don't you worry---we'll be back in another 30 years!" Massive cheers erupted.

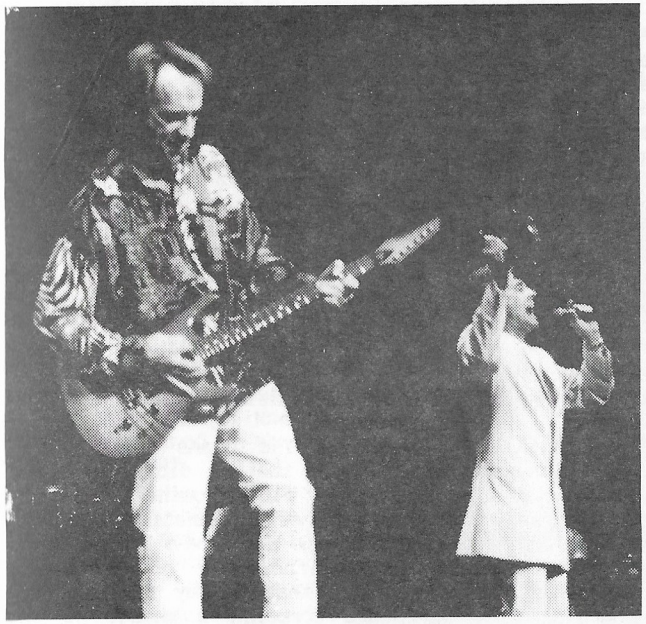
Davy unveiled a new comedy routine during his solo spot. First, he asked the crowd if they'd been watching the Monkees' show on Nickelodeon and VH-1. "We've been getting loads of letters, and I have a letter here," he said, letter in hand, "and I'm gonna read one every night, cuz it's only fair." Davy proceeded to read the letter aloud, complete with humorous asides and dramatic pauses for laughter and applause. "'Dear Mister Davy Jones.' Now it's Mister! I'm a grown-up, I am, now, aren't I? 'My family and I are big fans of the Monkees. We have records, tapes...' My eyes are getting so bad, I'll be reading this in Braille soon. 'We have records, tapes, CDs of the Monkees. My favorite songs are "Daydream Believer", "I'm A Believer", and "Your Auntie Grizelda". I would like it very much if you could sing at my Bar Mitzvah,'---wait a minute, this is the best part---'which will be on August 29, 1998.' I'm already booked up for next year! It says, 'P.S. You are my favorite Monkee.' Awwww..... 'P.P.S. Are Micky and Peter really that stupid? My mother says they're not really, they just do that on the TV show.'"

He went on to read another so-called letter packed with one-liners: "And also I've got another letter here. I get a fax every day from my mother in England. She says, 'Dear Davy, you've been gone three weeks now and all this time we thought you were locked in the toilet....' It's true, it's right here! 'Since you've been gone, your father has turned into a sex maniac. He tries to make love to me every opportunity he gets. Please excuse the wobbly writing. The undertaker called and he says if you don't pay the last installment on your grandmother's funeral, up she comes. They've discovered a woman in India with five legs, and your grandfather said her knickers must fit her like a glove. Last but not least, your uncle George died suddenly last week. He swallowed a bottle of varnish. It was a very painful death, but a lovely finish.'" The letter was greeted with loud groans from the audience!



Davy reads his mail onstage in New Haven
(photo by George Massina)

Davy spoke of seeing "The Brady Bunch Movie" on TV---"We were all in it, we were judges"---and led a sing-along of the "Brady" theme before singing "Girl".



(photo by George Massina)

Peter performed "Lucille" in his solo spot, adding, "I think the greatest rock'n' roll singer of all time was Little Richard."

All three returned to the stage to do "Heart and Soul" and "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You". Next up were "Higher and Higher"---Peter on banjo and Davy and Micky on guitar---and "Pleasant Valley Sunday".

Davy took a minute to reflect on the end of the Monkees' 30th Anniversary tour: "It's been a real busy year for the Monkees. We started out by doing a Disney special, then an ABC special, and then we went on to make an album. And also the four of us, Mike, Micky, Peter, and myself toured Europe, England, had some good concerts over there. And this is really the last of our year's concerts. We have another one around Christmastime, which is a friendly family thing we're going to do, but this is really the last concert you'll be seeing the Monkees doing in a long long time."

Davy indicated that he and Micky had written "You and I" and said he hoped the audience would remember it just as well as the more famous Monkees tunes by other songwriters.

The show ended with "You and I", "Porpoise Song"/"Listen to the Band", "Steppin' Stone", "I'm A Believer", and the encore of "No Time" and "Daydream Believer".---Maggie McManus, NJ

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POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS! POSTCARDS!!
Has your mailman been delivering all the Monkee postcards we've been sending you? Since the last issue, newsflashes have been mailed out as follows:

Date:	To subscribers in:	Regarding:
Jan. 5	MI, WI, western Ontario	Monkees show at Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Feb. 27-28
Jan. 5	CA, NV, AZ	Peter and Shoe Suede Blues show dates for January and February; "HEAD" at Towne Cinema, San Jose, Jan. 9-10

If you don't trust your mailman to get important Monkees news to you on time, be sure to stay in touch with MBF's hotline (609-888-4567) for all last minute information. If you're on-line, check MBF's latest Monkees news by sending an e-mail to our autoresponder at "monkeenews@flexquarters.com". Or send a SASE for the latest installment in our written update series.

P.O. Box 9847

Q. Every time I see the car commercials with Monkees songs in them ("I'm A Believer" for the Nissan Altima and "Theme from the Monkees" for the Ford Ranger), I wonder: do the Monkees make any money from the commercials?
A. Bobby Hart, co-writer of "Theme from the Monkees", was nice enough to provide us with the financial details. Bobby tells MBF, "The Ford Ranger commercial requires two licenses. (1) Ford must negotiate a syncronisation license from the owner of the song copyright (Screen-Gems/EMI Music) in order to use the music. 50% of the sync fee is passed on for the songwriters to split. (2) Ford must also obtain a master use license from the owner of the record to use the Monkees' recording of the theme. Rhino passes on a portion of this fee to the Monkees and about 4.5% to each of the three producers--Tommy [Boyce], me, and Jack Keller."

Q. At the Monkees concert I attended in late November, Peter announced that "Justus" and "Two Man Band" were on a pre-Grammy-nominations list. What does that mean, exactly?
A. Monkees manager Ward Sylvester told MBF that it means "Justus" was "nominated by members of the Academy". Ward added that he didn't know how selective the list was, but he did know that the final nominees would be chosen from that list. We tried to get a further explanation from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the folks who hand out the Grammy Awards. A publicist for NARAS told MBF that there was "no such thing" as a pre-Grammy-nominations list. He explained that Grammy nominees are chosen from a list of submissions. A record company, a member of the Academy, or basically anyone can submit an album for consideration---all that is necessary is that they obtain a NARAS submissions form and complete the necessary paperwork to ensure that the album meets all eligibility requirements---and then nominees are chosen from that list.

And, no, when Grammy nominees were announced in January, neither "Justus" nor "Two Man Band" was on the list. Most Grammy nominees are top-selling and top-charting albums. "Justus", however, never hit the charts, and, as of February 1, SoundScan reported that "Justus" had sold a grand total of 52,861 copies in the fifteen and a half months since its release. It has not yet outsold 1987's "Pool It!", also on Rhino, which rode the 1986 MTV-generated wave of Monkeemania to sales of 200,000 copies.

Q. In BMG's latest music catalog, they are advertising albums that have gone platinum or multi-platinum. The Monkees are in it with one album, "Greatest Hits". Next to the title of the album, it says "one million copies". Then it mentions the record label as Rhino. Is this true? Has the new Rhino Monkees "Greatest Hits" gone platinum?
A. BMG must have been referring to the Monkees' past sales history---for example, their 1986 greatest hits collection, "Then and Now: The Best of the Monkees" on Arista, did go platinum---but Rhino says this current "Greatest Hits" album has a long way to go before it reaches platinum status. According to SoundScan figures, "Greatest Hits" has sold 294,700 copies since its release in October 1995.

Q. I know that as long as the guys are working on their solo projects Davy will definitely tour and Peter will most likely tour, but how will we Micky fans ever get to see him?
A. Micky told MBF that in fact he has already been offered a solo touring opportunity. He hasn't agreed to it, because he wants to concentrate on his directing career. "But," Micky says, "there's always that possibility. It's a longshot, but you might see me on the road sometime."

Q. I read that Micky's first wife was Samantha, but that his present wife is Trina. But at the concert at the Universal Amphitheater Micky dedicated a certain song to his wife Samantha. Please explain.
A. Your source is a little out-of-date. Micky and Trina divorced in the early '90s, and Micky is now single. Micky has remained close friends with first wife Samantha over the years. The song he dedicated was probably "Randy Scouse Git", which Micky wrote about his 1967 trip to London where he first met and fell in love with Samantha.

As for the other guys, Davy is single and involved with Gillian Holt, who portrayed the Princess Entwined in the Monkees' 1997 ABC-TV special, and Peter's steady lady is Mary Jo. Both Gillian and Mary Jo traveled with the guys on the 1997 Monkees' tour.

Gillian and Mary Jo at the "Today" show (photo by George Massina)

Q. At a November concert, Davy read some letters from his fans and his mom. That was just a joke, right? His parents are dead, aren't they? Why was it back in the '60s Davy always mentioned his dad, but never his mom?
A. Oh, yes, that was strictly schtick---not a word of truth! Davy's mom died when he was 14 years old, and his dad passed away in 1968.

Q. What is the deal with Rhino and the Monkees lunchbox? My friend ordered it out of the Critics Choice Video catalog before Christmas, and yet when I called RhinoDirect I was told that they would not be selling it at all. When I called again, I was told that they had it and sold out of it! How can I get a straight answer?
A. First of all, it's not surprising the information gets a little scrambled---RhinoDirect is in Florida, which is pretty far from Rhino's home base in California---and the folks who answer the phones are always the last people to be clued in on what's going on. Sometimes they see conflicting information in front of them on their computer screens and have to make a guess. The official story from Rhino's video department is that Rhino did have the lunchboxes in their hands in the fall, but the many delays (first they were set for release in August, then October, then November) caused a logjam on Rhino's calendar of releases and the decision was made to hold the retail release until spring when the lunchbox could be properly promoted.

Rhino tells MBF, "Regarding the availability in catalogs, sometimes we choose to do that, especially when we can get into Christmas catalogs with a great gift item. Sometimes we offer things over TV first. But everyone will have a chance to get a Monkees lunchbox at retail on March 17."

Q. I recently bought the Japanese release of "33 1/3 Revolutions Per Monkee" on laserdisc, but I was dismayed at the Japanese subtitles that ran throughout. When the laserdisc box set of Monkees TV episodes was released a few years ago, there was Japanese dialogue on one audio channel and English dialogue on the other, and you could choose which one you wanted to hear. Why wasn't "33 1/3" done the same way?
A. Hanako Ozaki of the DPMM Monkees Fan Club in Japan tells MBF that "33 1/3" was never shown on TV or officially released in Japan until now. If it had been shown on TV in the '60s, it probably would have been dubbed into Japanese and released that way. The same situation exists for "HEAD", which came out on laserdisc in February, also with subtitles---"HEAD" wasn't shown in Japan until 1981, during the huge resurgence of Monkeemania there. In both cases, the long time gap made it impossible for the dialogue to be dubbed by the same actors who had originally provided Japanese dialogue for the Monkees. Hanako says Japanese fans would not accept four new young voice actors---to the Japanese fans, the original voice actors <u>are</u> the voices of the Monkees---so the next best choice was subtitles.

Q. I was flipping channels and just happened to see the Monkees on VH-1 on Thanksgiving. Why weren't we told they were going to be on?
A. Just a couple weeks earlier, as we were putting together the December issue of MBF, we spoke to a VH-1 publicist who said that the Monkees were not on the schedule. We can only print what they tell us! It might have been a last-minute decision on the part of VH-1's programmers. Always check your current TV listings to be sure.

Q. Will the Monkees' back-up band be touring with Davy on the Teen Idols Tour this summer?
A. At press time, nothing had been decided. Jerry Renino, musical director and bassist for the Monkees' reunion tour, told MBF, "You may see one or two familiar faces, but now you have two other artists who have people of their own they will want on the tour."

Meanwhile, you can catch Monkees tour band members Aviva, Kincaid Miller, and Wayne Avers collaborating on Aviva's upcoming solo album project---see pages 13-14 for more details.

You can also find Wayne Avers conducting a guitar workshop, March 12 at 7 pm at the Robert M. Sides Family Music Center, 201 Mulberry St., Williamsport, PA. Call 800-326-9450 for directions and further info. John Blair, producer of Davy's "Just For The Record" series, set up the workshop and says Wayne will discuss guitar technique and highlights of his career, which will likely include tales of life on the road with the Monkees. Afterwards, Wayne will do a 9:30 pm show at the nearby Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. 4th, Williamsport--call 717-326-4700 for details. Wayne will be accompanied by a full band--including John Blair on bass, keyboards, and vocals--and the set list will include selections from Wayne's solo contemporary jazz album, Monkees covers, originals, and retro-pop classics.

Peter and Wayne Avers (photo by George Massina)

(photo by Cari Cates)

Q. Everyone here in New Zealand is devastated to learn the Monkees are no longer coming here, having been scrimping and saving for at least six months to see them. I can't believe "the state of the NZ dollar" is to blame. If it's so bad, why haven't other bands cancelled their shows? Bands like Prodigy, Pearl Jam, Radiohead, Metallica, Oasis, and even Billy Joel, Elton John, and Cliff Richard will be touring here.
A. The choice was really out of the Monkees' hands. The promoters who were going to bring them to NZ backed out and withdrew the offer. It may be that the promoters were unsure what kind of draw the Monkees would be but were willing to take the risk---<u>until</u> the dollar dropped and the risk became far more expensive. The promoters probably have much more confidence in the drawing power of the other artists you mentioned. The Monkees certainly know they have many fans in NZ---Davy mentioned in several interviews last year that he was getting tons of fan mail from NZ---but it wasn't their decision.

Q. I read on the Internet that Rhino Records may be bought by Warner Music. Will that mean an end to Rhino's Monkees releases?
A. Rhino chief Harold Bronson tells MBF that the wire service report was exaggerated---if the deal happens it won't be so much an outright purchase as a financial restructuring to allow Rhino increased access to Warner's back catalog. Bronson assures Monkees fans it will be "business as usual" for Rhino's Monkees product line.

Q. In the "Devil and Peter Tork" episode, did Peter really play the "I Wanna Be Free" harp solo? Or did a professional harpist supply the music?
A. Peter mimed playing the harp, and the harp solo, recorded by another musician, was dubbed in.

Q. Why did Peter wear his belt buckle on the left in first season episodes?
A. He wanted to keep it from scratching the back of his guitar.

Q. From Davy's and Micky's books, we know that the U.S. Army tried to draft Davy in the 1960s and that Micky was exempt from the draft because of a childhood illness, but how did Mike and Peter manage to avoid being drafted?
A. Peter said in a <u>New York Times</u> interview in 1966 that he was rejected for his political views. Nez voluntarily joined the Air Force before he could be drafted.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads for the June issue will be accepted through May 1, 1998, first come first served, while space remains only! Ads are 40¢ per word to members and 75¢ per word to non-members. Display ad rates available on request. Payment must accompany ad---NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Make check or money order payable to Maggie McManus.

WANTED: Davy Jones Bell record, and any Weird Al Yankovic bootleg tapes. Write to: Grant Petersen, 2924 Driftwood Lane, Rogers, AR 72756.

Monkee Merchandise For Sale: Gum cards, magazines, photos, posters, paperbacks. Also TV/movie collectibles on all your favorite stars. CHIPS, Playboys, Emergency, A-Team, X-Files, Starsky/Hutch, Playgirls, James Bond, Charlie's Angels, David Cassidy, Tiger Beat, 16 Magazines, Hawaii Five-O, Dukes, Xena, Hercules, Richard Chamberlain, etc. Catalog $3. TV Guide Catalog, 1950-98, $2.50. Rogofsky, Box 107-MB, Glen Oaks, NY 11004.

Would appreciate Monkees photos from Austin! Lelia, 507 Janice, Converse, TX 78109.

WANTED--True stories about meeting the Monkees for book in making. Good/bad experiences needed. Pictures welcome. ALSO NEEDED: Video of Mt. Airy Lodge 11/28/97. Video/audio of Kiamesha Lake 11/29/97. Video/audio of New Haven, CT, 11/30/97. Name your price. Kris Lauren, 109 Lincoln Street, Apt. B, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

ATTENTION PETER TORK--Thank you for keeping your head and saving the show on 11/30/97. The children thank you and will not forget.

Micky: contact Mitchell Deautrive at Warner Brothers A.S.A.P. re: playing the Mad Hatter in "Batman 5".

Show your support for the 'Monkees Heal The World 2000' campaign. Share the 'Monkee Vibe Madness'!! http://www.angelfire.com/ne/MonkeeMadness/index.html. Or write to Sunshine, 6909 Bayberry Road, La Vista, NE 68128, or Rainbow, 11123 Littlebrook Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030.

MONKEES VIDEOS FOR SALE. $8.00 each, contains 2 episodes. I will pay postage. Send SASE for list. Julie Edwards, 426 Whitley Road South, Marble Hill, GA 30148.

Collectables Wanted: ShowBiz Babies, Lunchbox, Puzzles, Monkeemobiles, Plastic Flicker Rings, Coins, any Monkee memorabilia. Please send description, condition, and price for each item. Also to receive my large video/audio list, send $1 or email me at monkeevid@eurekanet.com. Waitman Hendershot, 1212 15th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101-4010.

Wanted: Rhino's Monkees Watch with mini drum case. Mark Miraglia, 1950 N. Parish Place, Burbank, CA 91504.

Wanted: Will pay for good audio tape of Davy's Bettendorf, IA, show(s). Prefer Saturday night late show. Kathy Meador, P.O. Box 50604, Nashville, TN 37205.

Selling original Monkees memorabilia! LSASE. Box 191235, LR, AR 72219.

I am 34 years old and would like to be pen pals with other Monkees fans around my age. Micky is my favorite. I would also like to buy recent pictures and videos. Martha Magruder, 913 So. 131, Omaha, NE 68154.

Monkees memorabilia for sale. Send LSASE to Mary Lemmon, P.O. Box 942084, Plano, TX 75094-2084.

Desperately Seeking: ANYTHING on the Saturday morning cartoon Kidd Video (1984-1987 on NBC). Please contact Teresita Warneke, 335 Ridgeview Ave. #4, Rockford, IL 61107.

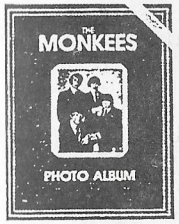
WANTED: Two pair of boots for 1969 Remco Monkees finger puppets. Will pay $15 per pair. Also other Monkees collectibles. Write E. Wallis, 1701 Chevy Knoll Drive, Glendale, CA 91206-1310 or email Evehallow@aol.com.

Wanted: anything on "New Kids on the Block". Send to Carol Cusack, P.O. Box 9, West Chicago, IL 60186-0009.

Would you like to join a Micky Dolenz fan club? If you do, check out The Micky Mob: Claire Walton, 158 Cannon Dale Road, Columbia, SC 29212. The Micky Mob Newsletter is packed with great photos, interesting facts, and cool interviews about Micky.

Monkee Videos: 2 episodes per tape. These are the ones you can buy in video stores. $10 includes s&h. Send SASE for list. Randi Patterson, 1325-C Denison, Springfield, IL 62704.

THE MONKEES



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For Sale: Elvis items--send SASE to Beth Cusack, P.O. Box 9, West Chicago, IL 60186-0009.

"LIVE" digital concert audios, "LIVE" video of The Today Show 8/22/97, Circus Boy Books, original flasher rings, finger puppets, and lots more! FREE LIST. Lora Keyes, 595 Goodyear Cres., Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8L2 CANADA, 905-898-3855, e-mail ItsNot2L8@aol.com. (I'm looking for a Monkees watch with a black band, by Rhino, that came in a white logo box issued in '96---HELP!)

Micky and Davy: I'm only 14, but from CDs and videos, I think both of you still sound as soft, sweet, and cute now as you did then. Also, I want to wish Micky a Happy Birthday! Love, Gina Monturo, Philadelphia, PA

Monkees tour photos from 1997 and previous years, including 1986 convention. Two stamps for catalog. George Massina, 31 Homestead Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08610.

PHOTOS--closeups!!! Peter, Davy, Micky's girls, and others. (See MBF Dec. 1997!) LSASE for list to C. Dougert, P.O. Box 4121, Dunellen, NJ 08812.

1997 TOUR PHOTOS FOR SALE: self-addressed stamped envelope with one stamp gets my photo list. Double-stamped SASE gets photo list AND my audio/video list, too! Andrea Chempinski, 2020 "F" Street NW #702, Washington, DC 20006.

BACK ISSUES of MBF!!! MBF #81, June 1997, covers U.K. all-four reunion tour and MBF's 20th anniversary. $3 each U.S. ($3.25 Canada, $4.25 overseas). "VIDPIX" magazine March 1991 with Nez interview (10th anniversary of "Elephant Parts") and color Nez cover photo, $1 each U.S. ($1.25 Canada, $2.25 overseas). Maggie McManus, 2770 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08610-3622. Sorry---all other back issues are sold out.

GGIE